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## Schorr Says He Was Source Of Published Secret Report

By Jim Adams  
Associated Press

CBS News Correspondent Daniel Schorr confirmed yesterday that he was responsible for newspaper publication of most of the House Select Intelligence Committee's still-classified secret report.

"I decided that with much of the contents already known I could not be the one responsible for suppressing the report," Schorr said in a detailed statement.

"That decision was entirely mine," he said. Schorr gave no indication who leaked the report to him.

HE SAID only that "the report became available to me — and apparently not to me alone — at a time when its general release was expected within a few days."

He said he reported highlights extensively on CBS news but the situation changed when the House, by a vote of 246 to 124 on Jan. 29, ordered the Intelligence Committee to keep the report secret.

Publication of the report in 21 pages of a New York tabloid, The Village Voice, was arranged by an intermediary provided by a Washington organization that provides legal defense in press freedom cases, Schorr said.

He said he made that arrangement to provide additional protection for his own source and because "I considered it unthinkable that there would be any personal profit for me."

**SCHORR ACCUSED** the organization — The Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press — of breaching confidentiality.

"I am fully aware of the irony of my complaining about leaks," he said.

But he appeared to blame the reporters committee for public disclosure of his role in the publication of the report.

"I deeply regret that the reporters committee has not been able to maintain the confidentiality of the arrangement because there are delicate matters involved that journalists should want to protect in their common interest."

Schorr said that when he realized that he had a copy of a report that no longer was likely to be made public, "I felt myself confronted with an inescapable decision of journalistic conscience."

"It was whether, as possibly the sole possessor of the document outside the government, to cooperate in what might be the total suppression of a report originally meant for public distribution."

HE SAID he "enlisted the confidential cooperation" of the reporters committee which he said provided an intermediary knowledgeable about publishing "with whom I dealt by telephone."

The intermediary reported back that there was little early prospect for publication as a book and that the best opportunity was an offer from the Village Voice that would be withdrawn in 24 hours.

"I agreed that the offer should be accepted and asked to be kept out of all financial arrangements," Schorr said.

In fact, he said, he had no dealings of any kind with anyone at the Village Voice.

"The question of money was, to my mind, secondary and mainly symbolic to underline an act that I considered essential as a journalist," Schorr said.

A spokesman for the reporters committee said yesterday it agreed to accept the proceeds of any publication of the report by Schorr "on the same terms as any donation — to be used in defense of the First Amendment."

"WE PUT MR. Schorr in touch with an attorney familiar with publishing," the spokesman said, "so that Mr. Schorr could make his own publication arrangements. Mr. Schorr said his plan was to have the report published in book form with an introduction signed by him and the arrangement with the reporters committee would be known."

"When he changed his plans there was simply no way that, after publication, Mr. Schorr could have expected that a committee of news reporters would not publically confirm all the arrangements."

"There was no breach of confidentiality by the committee," the spokesman concluded.

He had refused to discuss the matter Thursday after another newsman said an intermediary indicated Schorr had a copy of the report. He also had displayed the title page of the report on television and had done a number of news reports on its contents.

"My lips are sealed on legal advice," he said when asked about the report.

**SCHORR'S ROLE** in the publication of the House report was disclosed by The Washington Post in a story published the day The Village Voice printed the report.

The Post story was based on both on-the-record and off-the-record comments by members of the reporters committee plus statements by Schorr.

Members of the organization later said that Schorr had contacted them and asked if they would accept proceeds from publication of the report.

But they said they did not know if The Village Voice publication had been arranged in any way by Schorr — or even if he in fact had a copy of the House committee report.

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